

## PIONEER LANDSCAPE

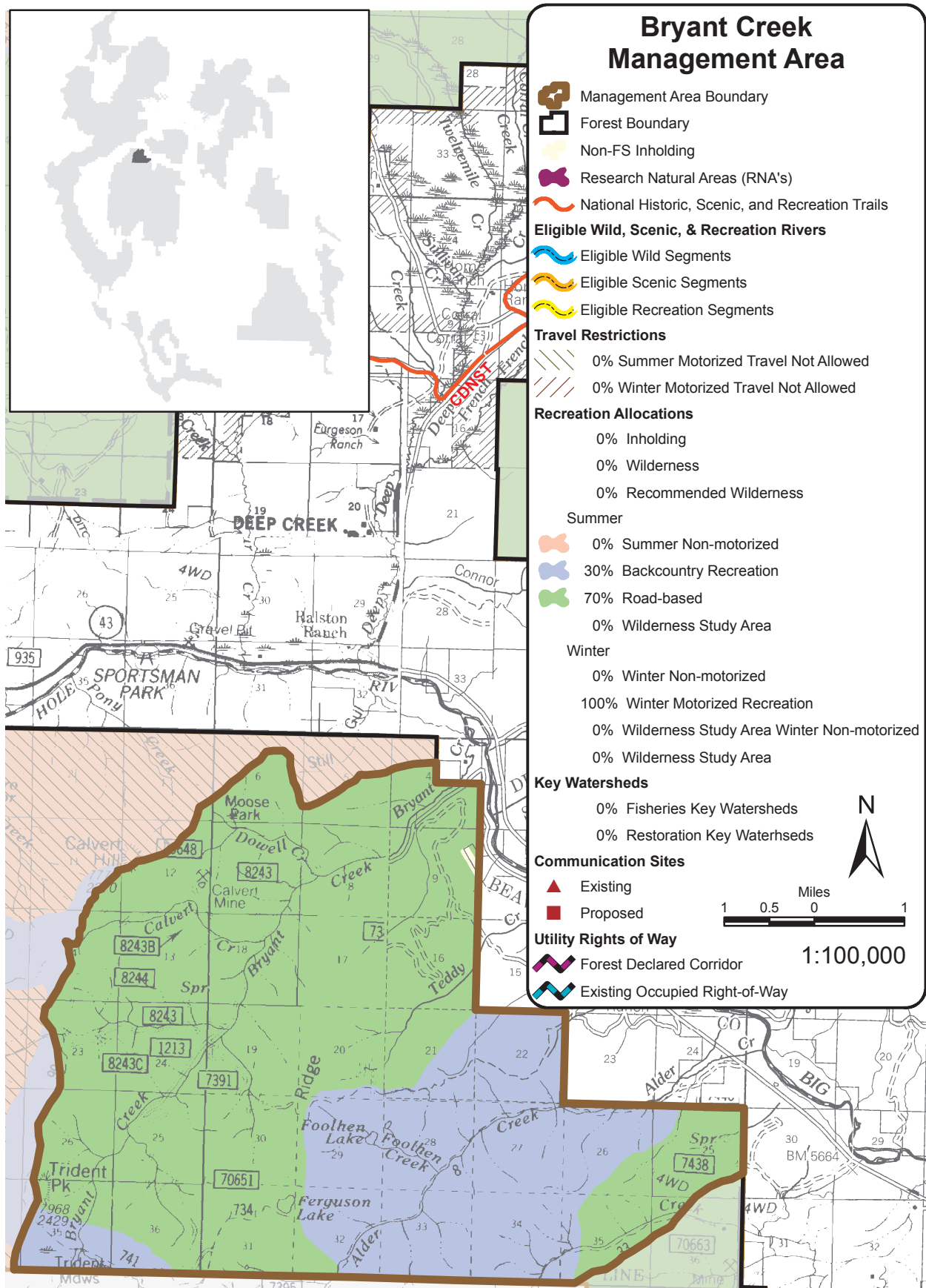
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The Pioneer Mountains are an island mountain range dominated by rocky peaks. Forest types include lodgepole pine, dry site Douglas-fir, spruce with subalpine fir, and whitebark pine. Lower elevations and valleys are covered by sagebrush and grasslands. The forest interior provides secure habitat for a variety of wildlife including lynx and wolverine. Foothills provide big game winter range.

Streams flow into the Big Hole and Beaverhead Class One Trout Streams. Challenges are managing critical fish habitat, recreation, and irrigation, while supplying municipal water for Dillon through Rattlesnake Creek and for Butte and Melrose through the Big Hole River.

The communities of Dillon, Wisdom, Wise River, Dewey, Argenta, Glen, Jackson, Polaris, Melrose, and Divide are located along the highways which surround the landscape. Communities are tied to traditional hunting, grazing, logging, and mining activities, scenery, and recreation opportunities provided by the landscape. The proximity of the backcountry and developed sites to larger urban centers, Dillon and Butte, and Interstate 15 contribute to its popularity.

The Pioneer Landscape offers several important historic features; the Birch Creek Education Center, a historic Civilian Conservation Corps Camp just north of Dillon; the Canyon Creek Kilns above Glendale and Melrose; and the Elkhorn mining district near the Scenic Byway. The most intensively managed feature is the Pioneer Mountains scenic Byway, which offers developed camping, crystal digging at Crystal Park, and access to the West Pioneer Wilderness Study Area and the Torrey Mountain Recommended Wilderness Area. In winter the byway becomes the Wise River National Recreation Trail popular for snowmobiling. Maverick Mountain Ski Resort, and Elkhorn Hot Springs near cross-country and snowmobile trails. Big game hunting is also popular here.



### ***Bryant Creek Management Area***

This area is managed for timber production, livestock grazing, and other forest products. The recreation setting includes roaded areas modified by timber harvest and semi-primitive areas with natural appearing scenery. Motorized, mountain bike, and other types of recreational travel on roads and trails are common year long, though some routes are closed to provide for elk security in summer and fall.

Vegetation is managed to provide wood products, reduce fuels, and produce forage for livestock and wildlife.

#### **Visitors may encounter**

Vegetation changes following timber harvest or fire

Motor vehicle and mountain bikers on roads and trails in summer and fall

Snowmobilers

Livestock



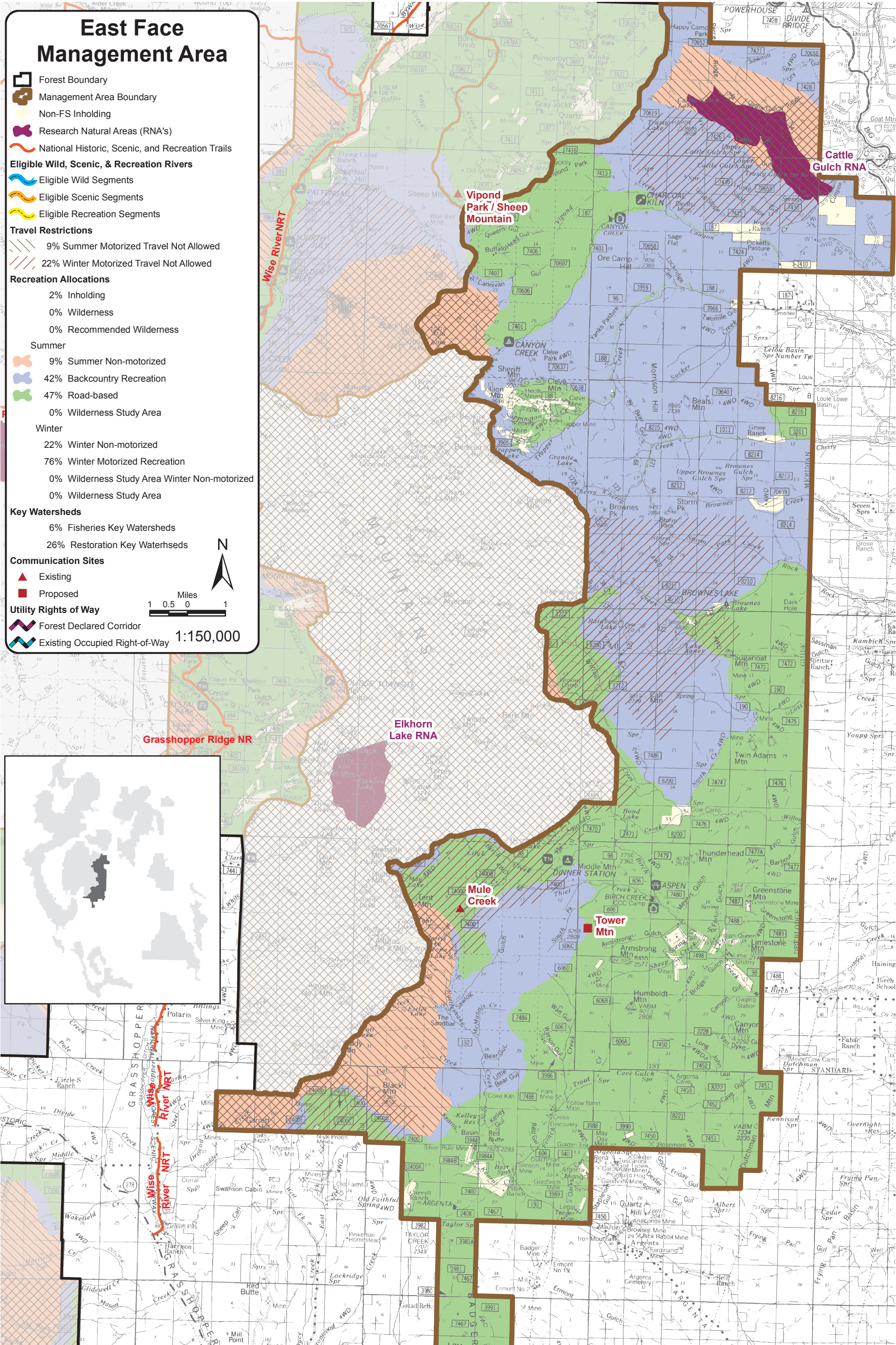
#### **Objectives in Addition to Forestwide Objectives**

None

#### **Standards in Addition to Forestwide Standards**

None







### ***East Face Management Area***

This area is managed for livestock grazing and a mix of recreation opportunities easily accessed from Interstate 15.

The area provides a mix of semi-primitive and roaded settings. The terrain, vegetation, and types of past uses, including timber harvest, have resulted in some areas of high open motorized road density. The East Face has a long tradition of use by people from Dillon and other area communities for dispersed recreation yearlong, both motorized and non-motorized. Recreation residence tracts are authorized in several locations.

The Bender Center, University of Montana Western, provides a variety of outdoor education programs and classes. The Canyon, Trapper, Rock, Birch, and French Creek drainages, and Hecla, are areas rich with mining history.

Forage is managed for livestock grazing and for big game winter range on foothill slopes. Vegetation will also continue to be managed using timber harvest and fire.

Winter non-motorized allocations protect big game winter range north of Canyon Creek. South of Rock Creek this allocation provides opportunities for accessible quiet recreation.

There are several reservoirs, which allow popular small lake recreation activities as well as irrigation water for permittees. Active restoration of the Willow Creek, Birch Creek and Lost-Pioneers watersheds takes place in this area. Cherry Creek is managed as a fisheries key watershed for conservation of native fish populations.

#### **Visitors may encounter**

Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire

Dispersed campers, motor vehicle and mountain bike riders on roads and trails

Snowmobilers and skiers

Livestock



#### **Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives**

Develop or improve trailheads and access to motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities

Improve the quality of motorized trail opportunities

#### **Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards**

None



# Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway Management Area

- Management Area Boundary
- Forest Boundary
- Non-FS Inholding
- Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
- National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails

## Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers

- Eligible Wild Segments
- Eligible Scenic Segments
- Eligible Recreation Segments

## Travel Restrictions

- 29% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- 19% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed

## Recreation Allocations

- 5% Inholding
- 0% Wilderness
- 0% Recommended Wilderness
- Summer
  - 29% Summer Non-motorized
  - 25% Backcountry Recreation
  - 42% Road-based
  - 0% Wilderness Study Area
- Winter
  - 19% Winter Non-motorized
  - 76% Winter Motorized Recreation
  - 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
  - 0% Wilderness Study Area

## Key Watersheds

- 0% Fisheries Key Watersheds
- 0% Restoration Key Watersheds

## Communication Sites

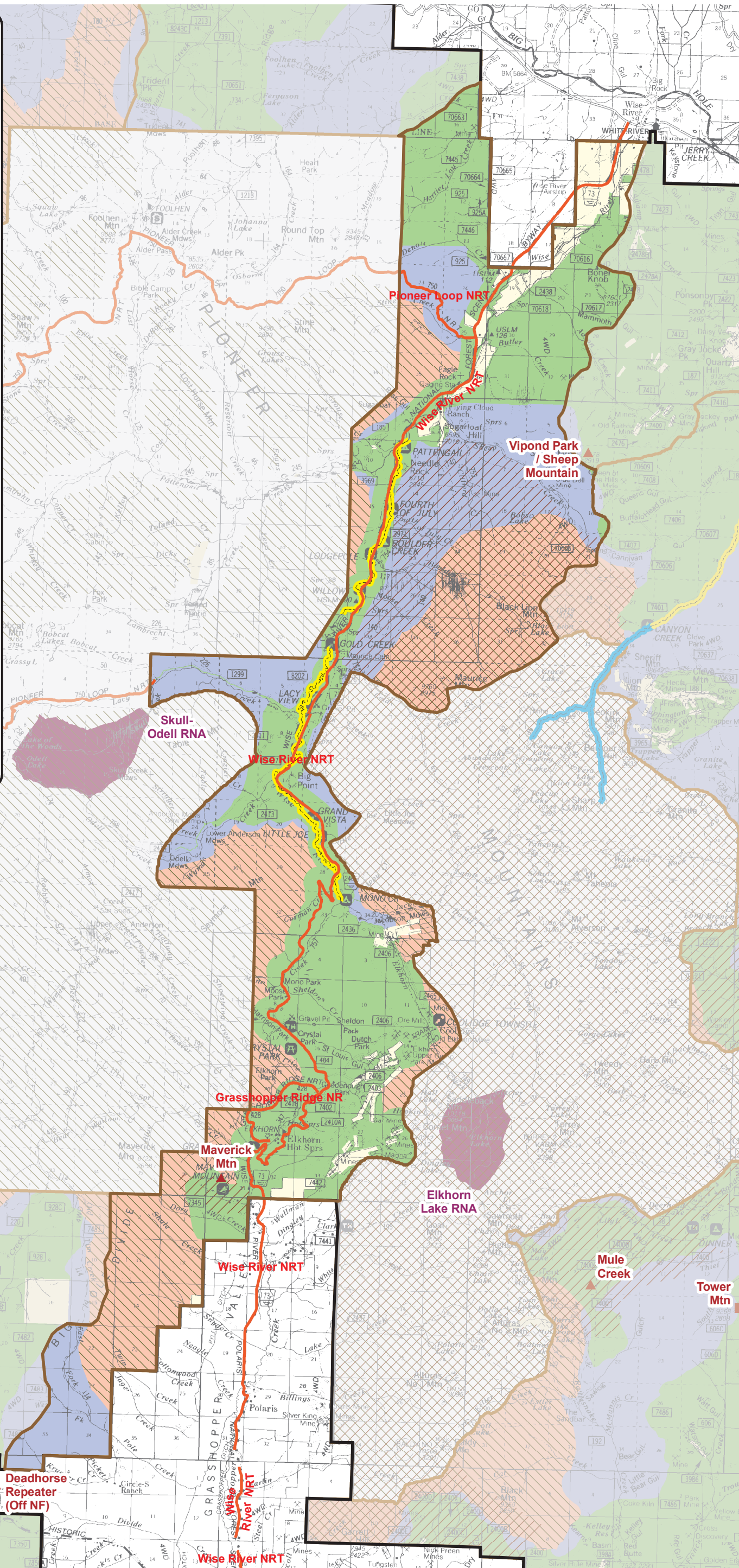
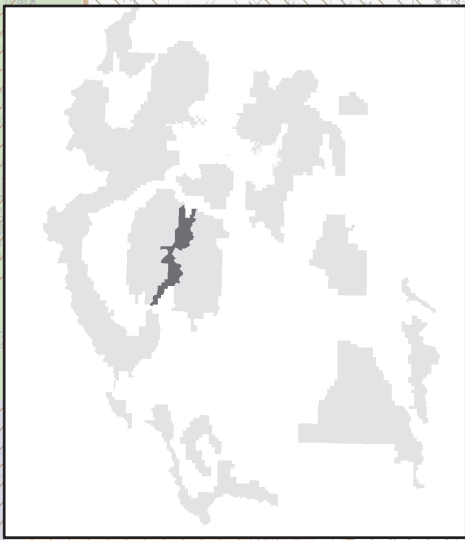
- Existing
- Proposed

## Utility Rights of Way

- Forest Declared Corridor
- Existing Occupied Right-of-Way

Miles  
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### *Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway Management Area*

This area is managed to provide scenic driving and concentrated areas of recreation. Facilities are developed consistent with the theme, “The West the way it used to be.”

The Pioneer Mountains National Forest Scenic Byway is administered by Beaverhead County. Developed recreation facilities are paved along the byway. Campgrounds and trailheads further from the road are gravel surfaced. There are several in-holdings and special use recreation residences. A trailhead provides parking for the trail to the Coolidge Ghost Town.

The byway, and related roads offer a roaded natural setting and a variety of summer activities, especially scenic driving, family camping, natural and cultural history, crystal digging, and back country access. The Byway provides opportunities for fall hunting in a roaded setting, and access points to motorized and non-motorized backcountry trails. Premier snowmobiling along the Wise River National Recreation Trail, the Grasshopper Cross-country Ski Trails, Elkhorn Hot Springs, and Maverick Mountain Ski Resort are popular with both local residents and tourists.

Backcountry and non-motorized areas offer a semi-primitive recreation setting.

Wildlife species traverse the riparian corridors along the Byway. Grazing livestock add their special contribution to the byway theme.

#### **Visitors may encounter**

Minor vegetation changes from fire and timber harvest

Many visitors particularly at Crystal Park and campgrounds

ATV, horse, and mountain bike riders on trails

Snowmobilers and skiers

Livestock



#### **Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives**


















Erect barriers to control user built trails in Lacey Creek Campground and restore conditions

Prepare a management plan for Crystal Park

#### **Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards**

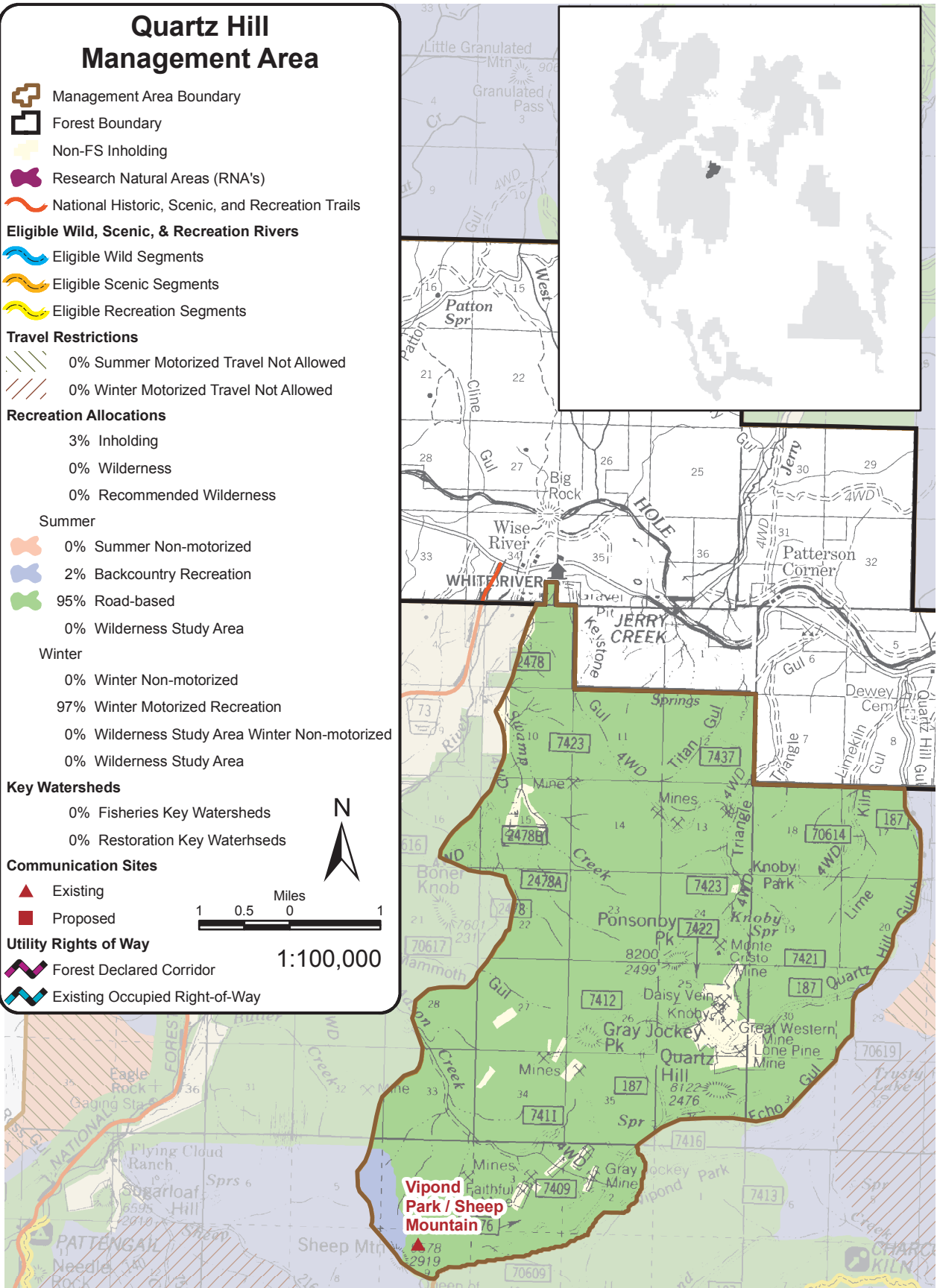
Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - Moderate

# Quartz Hill Management Area

-  Management Area Boundary
-  Forest Boundary
-  Non-FS Inholding
-  Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
-  National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails
- Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers**
  -  Eligible Wild Segments
  -  Eligible Scenic Segments
  -  Eligible Recreation Segments
- Travel Restrictions**
  -  0% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
  -  0% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- Recreation Allocations**
  - 3% Inholding
  - 0% Wilderness
  - 0% Recommended Wilderness
  - Summer**
    -  0% Summer Non-motorized
    -  2% Backcountry Recreation
    -  95% Road-based
    - 0% Wilderness Study Area
  - Winter**
    - 0% Winter Non-motorized
    - 97% Winter Motorized Recreation
    - 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
    - 0% Wilderness Study Area
- Key Watersheds**
  - 0% Fisheries Key Watersheds
  - 0% Restoration Key Watersheds
- Communication Sites**
  -  Existing
  -  Proposed
- Utility Rights of Way**
  -  Forest Declared Corridor
  -  Existing Occupied Right-of-Way

1 0.5 0 1  
Miles

1:100,000



### ***Quartz Hill Management Area***

This area is managed for timber production, livestock grazing, and dispersed recreation.

The recreation setting is roaded, with a mix of modified and natural appearing scenery. Remnants of old mines are found throughout the landscape. Campers and hunters disperse themselves along and off of forest roads. Primitive roads form the backbone of motorized opportunities. The archery hunting season is very important here, along with the general big game season. Snowmobiling is common in winter.

#### **Visitors may encounter**

Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire

Motor vehicle and mountain bike riders on roads and trails

Snowmobilers

Historic and active mining

Livestock



#### **Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives**











None

#### **Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards**


None





# Torrey Mountain Recommended Wilderness Management Area

-  Management Area Boundary
-  Forest Boundary
-  Non-FS Inholding
-  Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
-  National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails
- Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers**
-  Eligible Wild Segments
-  Eligible Scenic Segments
-  Eligible Recreation Segments
- Travel Restrictions**
-  100% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
-  100% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- Recreation Allocations**
- 0% Inholding

0% Wilderness

100% Recommended Wilderness
- Summer**
-  0% Summer Non-motorized

 0% Backcountry Recreation


 0% Road-based



0% Wilderness Study Area
- Winter**
- 0% Winter Non-motorized


0% Winter Motorized Recreation

0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized

0% Wilderness Study Area
- Key Watersheds**
- 0% Fisheries Key Watersheds

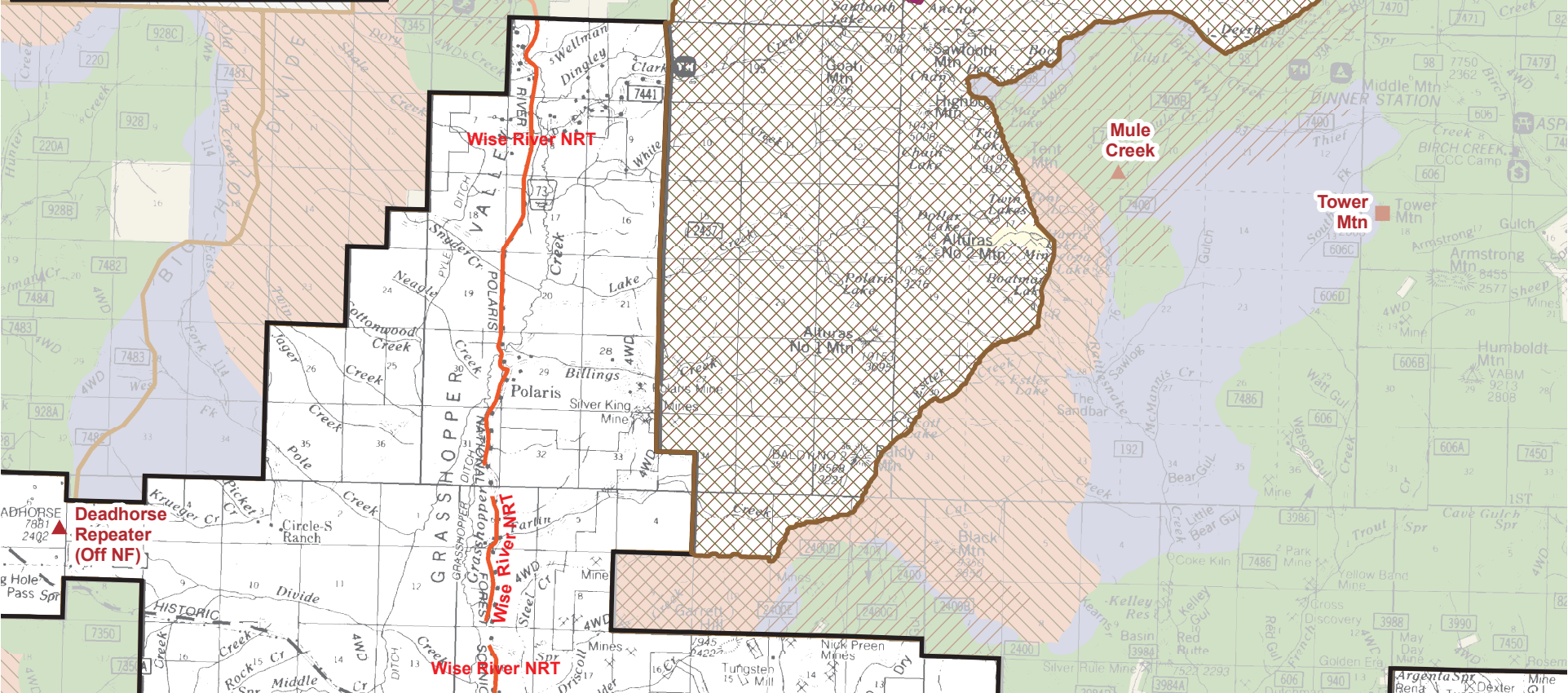
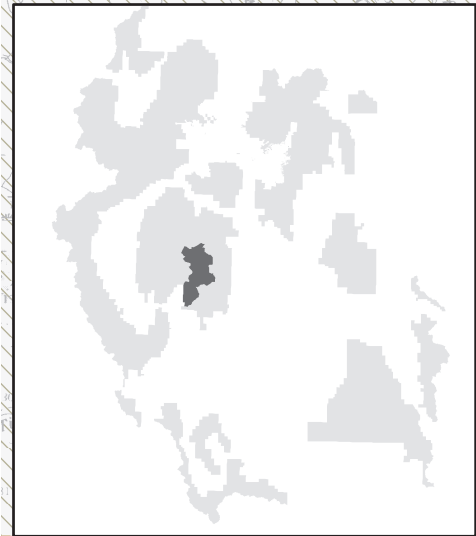
22% Restoration Key Watersheds
- Communication Sites**
-  Existing

 Proposed
- Utility Rights of Way**
-  Forest Declared Corridor

 Existing Occupied Right-of-Way



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### ***Torrey Mountain Recommended Wilderness Management Area***

This area is managed to protect wilderness characteristics and to provide non-motorized recreation with high levels of challenge and solitude

The recreation setting is semi-primitive non-motorized. Common recreation uses are day hikes, backpacking, or horseback trips of varied duration that originate from Birch Creek, Rock Creek, and other roads on the east side or trailheads on the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway on the west. Challenging backcountry skiing, snow shoeing, and hiking are available in winter.

Vegetation is managed primarily through prescribed and natural fire. Most active watershed restoration takes place in the lower reaches of Birch and Willow Creek watersheds, in the East Face management area.

#### **Visitors may encounter**

Native vegetation changes only from fire and other natural events

Livestock



#### **Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives**

Restore closed motorized trails to a more natural condition.

#### **Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards**

Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - Very High

#### **Management of the area if released from wilderness designation**

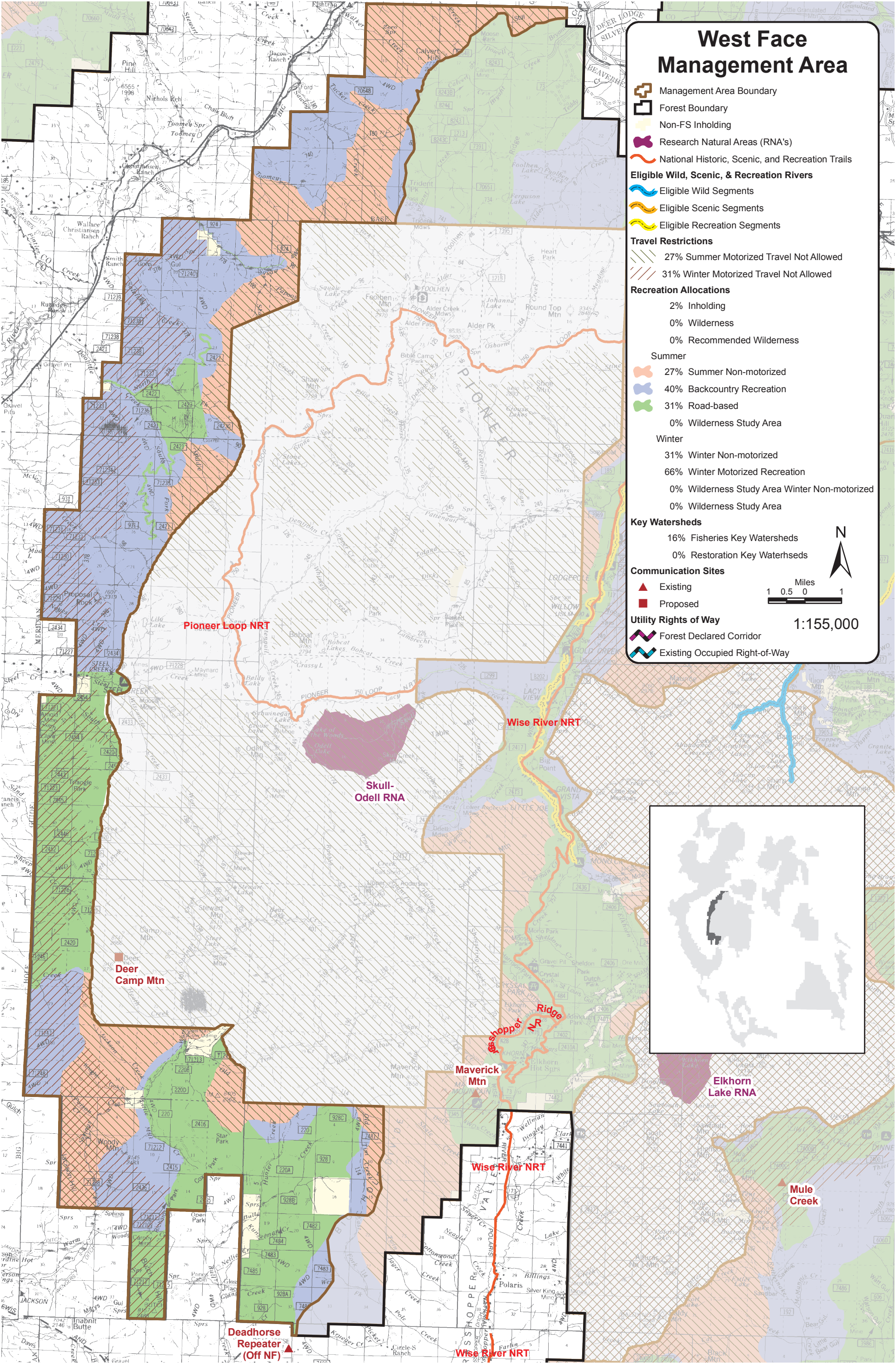
Semi-primitive non-motorized summer

Mixed semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized in winter as mapped in Alternative 1

Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - High

Mountain bikes are allowed







### *West Face Management Area*

This area is managed for a mix of forest uses including wood products, livestock grazing, and dispersed recreation.

Much of the recreation setting is semi-primitive except for past timber harvest around the road systems of Doolittle, Steel, and Bull creeks. Road access on the north end is limited because it includes a river crossing. Roads through the area provide access to the West Pioneer Wilderness Study Area. Common recreation activities are hunting, camping, hiking, horseback trail trips, and driving. Snowmobiling is popular through areas leading to the West Pioneers. Motorized closures in winter protect big game winter range.

Post and pole harvest, firewood gathering, and cattle grazing continue to be important uses, but the general character remains less developed as seen from the Big Hole Valley.

Doolittle and Squaw Creek are fisheries key watersheds managed to conserve native fish populations.

#### **Visitors may encounter**

Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire

Motor vehicle riders on roads and trails

Snowmobilers

Hunting camps

Livestock



#### **Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives**

None

#### **Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards**

None



# West Pioneer Wilderness Study Area Management Area

Forest Boundary

Management Area Boundary

Non-FS Inholding

Research Natural Areas (RNA's)

National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails

Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers

Eligible Wild Segments

Eligible Scenic Segments

Eligible Recreation Segments

Travel Restrictions

68% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed

0% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed

Recreation Allocations

0% Inholding

0% Wilderness

0% Recommended Wilderness

Summer

0% Summer Non-motorized

0% Backcountry Recreation

0% Road-based

100% Wilderness Study Area

Winter

0% Winter Non-motorized

0% Winter Motorized Recreation

0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized

100% Wilderness Study Area

Key Watersheds

7% Fisheries Key Watersheds

0% Restoration Key Watersheds

Communication Sites

Existing

Proposed

Utility Rights of Way

Forest Declared Corridor

Existing Occupied Right-of-Way

1:126,720

N

1

0.5

0

1

Miles



### *West Pioneer Wilderness Study Area Management Area*

This area is managed to protect Wilderness character, and to provide dispersed recreation and other forest activities consistent with the designation.

This Wilderness Study Area was designated, through the 1977 Montana Wilderness Study Act, P.L.95-150, for study of the area's potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The study resulted in a non-wilderness recommendation in 1981 but the designation remains until Congress acts. .

The area provides a semi-primitive recreation setting in summer and winter. Hunting, stock and OHV use on trails are the most common activities. Popular snowmobile trails connect the Big Hole Valley through the Warm Springs area to the Scenic Byway.

Vegetation is managed primarily through prescribed and natural fire.

Doolittle and Squaw Creek are fisheries key watersheds managed to conserve native fish populations.

#### **Visitors may encounter**

Vegetation changes from fire and other natural events

Livestock



#### **Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives**

Restore areas altered by discontinued uses to a more natural condition

#### **Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards**

Manage according to the Montana Wilderness Study Act, P.L.95-150

Timber harvest is prohibited

Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - High